

LISTING AND AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A topical composition comprising metronidazole or a pharmacologically acceptable derivative thereof at a concentration of ~~at least~~ about 510 wt % in a pharmacologically acceptable non-aqueous vehicle, wherein the vehicle comprises at least one hydrocarbon compound.

2. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A topical composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the vehicle comprises a mixture of at least two semi-solid saturated hydrocarbon compounds.

8. (Previously presented) A topical composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the vehicle comprises white petrolatum (USP).

9. (Previously presented) A topical composition as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one steroid.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A topical composition as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one analgesic agent.

12. - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A topical composition as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one antimicrobial agent.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A topical composition as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one substance that either promotes skin integrity or inhibits skin breakdown.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A topical composition as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of least one anti-inflammatory agent.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A topical composition as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one antidiarrheal compound.

21. - 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A topical composition as claimed in Claim 261 consisting essentially of metronidazole at a concentration of about 10 wt % in white petrolatum (USP).

28. (Currently amended) A topical composition ~~comprising metronidazole or a pharmacologically acceptable derivative thereof at a concentration of at least about 5 wt % in a pharmacologically acceptable non-aqueous vehicle~~ as claimed in claim 1 for use in the treatment of the human or animal body.

29. - 54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) A method of treatment of ~~conditions of the colon; rectum, Crohn's disease of the~~ anorectum and perianal region comprising application of a topical composition comprising metronidazole or a pharmacologically acceptable derivative thereof at a concentration of ~~at least~~ about 510 wt % in a pharmacologically acceptable non-aqueous vehicle directly to the affected area.

56. - 59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim ~~48~~55 wherein the dose of metronidazole for each application is between from about 125 mg to about 1250 mg.

61. - 62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently amended) A method as claimed Claim ~~48~~55 wherein the composition is applied between from 2 to 4 times daily.

64. (Canceled)

65. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the topical medicament is applied following an anorectal operation.

66. (New) A method according to Claim 65 wherein the anorectal operation is selected from the group consisting of hemorrhoidectomy, a fistulotomy, a fissurectomy, a sphincterotomy, sphincteroplasty and incision and drainage of an abscess.

67. (New) A method according to Claim 65 wherein the anorectal operation is a hemorrhoidectomy.